NBC NEWS- IRANIAN HOSTAGE CRISIS REPORTS (1-22-1-30-1981)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs)

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From January 22nd - January 30th, 1981 NBC NEWS Reports on the release of the 52 American Hostages in Iran which by had been held for 444 days

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washington correspondent roger mudd good evening the 52 former hostages are safe and sound tonight in west germany but some of them are showing signs of strain and others are talking about the brutality of their captivity the reagan administration is described as being very irate very angry over reports of mistreatment president reagan sent a message to the hospital in wiesbaden praising the americans for their professionalism and patriotism john hart was at the hospital today it looks as if they can't get over it being free bruce langen on his way back from the dentist still exalting charles jones having phoned home already saying hi to the wife and kids again by way of the cameras even with the many welcomes and all the flags and all the american faces they keep coming to the balcony to see the sense of safety is still sinking in for many of them one was heard calling home today to say with wonder i'm still safe several of them talked about their treatment in iran with 18 year old margaret blakely a hospital cashier they they were blindfolded in everything they did they would they couldn't talk to each other they um they couldn't look at each other because they thought they were you know using eye movements or something like this as a code they finally figured out a tapping code so that they could communicate with each other when they when they couldn't talk to him or anything and they they just got blindfolded was the big thing this morning rodney sickman and stephen kirkley came out to talk to the journalists we can say we aren't mistreated but there are other people who have their own stories are you ready to go home now uh can't wait to see the united states of america bruce german came out with barry rosen and william royer german not yet willing to talk about the iran days

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iran days rosen calling iran an outlaw country i spent years studying iranian affairs and i love iranians it's hard to say that i did but uh some of the i mean the treatment personally i just feel that iran is an outlaw country and it does deserve tremendous criticism from the world from what little is known it appears that many of the younger people may have been treated better than the older ones but many just don't want to talk about it yet you can tell that they're gonna start to cry or something their eyes get red they start watering but as of that and or they'll just say oh well i really don't want to talk about it right now i'm not ready for it yet so you know they just say please give me some time i need time to adjust [Music] [Applause] tonight a band concert beneath the balconies by some young west germans [Music] thomas ahern who it is believed spent much of his time in solitary confinement wanted to talk to the band and did thank you very much feel feel and feel it feeling down and down visitors say the new patients expect to head home in two or three days john hart nbc news be spot when they do get home the government plaza plans to take them somewhere where they can meet their families privately the us military academy at west point said today it has been alerted to play a possible role in their return but more details are not known in a minute washington's reaction to the end of the crisis the story is coming out now of what went on behind the locked gate of the american embassy in tehran

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american embassy in tehran produced reaction all over washington today in the senate majority leader howard baker said he wanted an inquiry by the foreign relations committee delayed until the wounds have healed a little resolutions were introduced in the house and senate to support president reagan should he refuse to carry out the agreement with iran john palmer has today's story of mr reagan and his predecessor as he was flying back to georgia after seeing the 52 americans former president carter wrote a report to president reagan urging the new president to abide by the hostage agreement but adding never do any favors for hoodlums who persecuted innocent americans mr carter told reporters aboard his plane the agreement is in this country's best interest and that we should keep our commitment because the nation's honor is at stake on his arrival in plains he talked about how the iranians abused the hostages iran as a nation their individual public uh leaders have acted as criminals with a unbelievable aspect of savagery against absolutely innocent american hostages at the white house vice president bush talked with reporters after receiving mr carter's report delivered by walter mondale barbaric treatment of american citizens must not be in any way rewarded or even condoned and so or needs a full review later at a meeting with mr reagan bush told the president about the comments he had made earlier to reporters [Music] several provisions of the agreement remain to be carried out by the reagan administration including freezing assets of the late shaw asking federal courts to nullify 388 lawsuits against iran and gradually turning over part of the remaining frozen assets to iran the white house says while it still expects to live up to the agreement it

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expects to live up to the agreement it wants a much closer look at it and sources say president reagan is exploring ways to penalize iran for its treatment of the hostages while technically observing provisions of the agreement john palmer nbc news washington in iran the chief hostage negotiator baizad nabavi angrily denied accusations that the americans had been mistreated in a remarkable statement nabavi said the former hostages are ungrateful and do not understand the meaning of kindness he said iran had made interviews of the hostages in which they did not complain about their treatment he didn't mention that they were in captivity and under duress when those interviews were made george lewis has had a look at some of those pictures the interviews with the two marine sergeants were filmed on monday one day before the hostages were set free both gregory persinger of seaford delaware and kevin hermanning of oak creek wisconsin said they had been well treated when you get there i mean there's going to be a lot of propaganda on what has happened to you here for example you've been brainwashed you've been tortured you've been bothered put under extreme terror and other such words and i want to see what you think about that are you have you brainwashed no we haven't and when i get to the wherever we're going to be going after here i'm just going to tell it realistic like it was but in wisconsin hermanning's father said his son had to say that that in fact kevin had spent some time in solitary confinement i think he was said something about 43 days i think it was from time to time the iranians have released propaganda films attempting to prove the hostages were not suffering gary lee of falls church virginia appearing last easter in june lee was thrown in solitary confinement twice the iranians pretended they were going to execute him according to lee's wife pat when he called her yesterday he said he refused

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called her yesterday he said he refused to participate in any more films after that as a protest a protest against the horrors he had experienced he was he was tied up like a chicken and told that he was going to die and his his thoughts were i just hope patent and it can understand if i die i hope they can understand it [Music] to have or to hear a click click a bullet going through your head william sullivan the last american ambassador to iran told the women's national democratic club in washington today that american diplomats had warned of the carter administration that there would be trouble at the embassy in tehran if the exiled shah were led into the united states in response to a question sullivan spoke of those warnings to the carter administration this administration or the previous administration was warned several times that if the shah came to this country hostages would have been taken we could either have decided that it was important to retain our embassy there and therefore told the shah he couldn't come or if we felt it was important that the shah come we might have closed down our embassy there was no real value obtained from it in a

circumstance uh where it was hemmed in and not going to be able to work in adverse conditions and another puzzle the former canadian ambassador to iran said today he knew the hostages were being abused some weeks after they were captured he told a press conference in new york today that he passed that information on to the canadian government but he doesn't know if canada passed it on to the united states in any case there were no accusations of brutality made by the american government during the many months of the

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government during the many months of the crisis this is nbc nightly news with john chancellor in new york and chief washington correspondent roger mudd good evening the hostages today began preparing to come home and their government began preparing a low-key family welcome for them on sunday they will land in the united states around noon on sunday to be met by their families with cameras and reporters kept at a distance that reunion will be followed by a day or so of privacy and then it will be on to washington for an official welcome in wiesbaden west germany they started the day early and john hart has the story of their day while the former hostages were happy to get up before six in the morning to have the px to themselves buying suitcases for the trip home shoes to replace the iranian sandals left right there in the store and plenty of toiletries some had not brushed their teeth for 14 months except with chicken bones while it was good to go shopping like ordinary people several have gone through the first relief of release and into depression that was expected the past is too near anger still rising boarding the bus back to the hospital several were asked how long they had spent in solitary confinement 45 days 45 minutes jake would have been drinking he was in five damn months some are so depressed they are not participating in the transition program sitting in their rooms talking to no one some feel there's too much excitement here and are eager to get home one man trembled and wept in the dentist's chair today another told of how the iranians painted a yellow stripe down his back and called him cowardly and how all the yellow ribbons here triggered bad memories the mistreatment and the hostages response were explained today by the chief doctor and some of his patients hostages have told us they were

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hostages have told us they were mistreated for several reasons in some cases an interrogation technique to get safe combinations or to get them to make statements that were friendly to their captors in other cases they were mistreated as punishment for attempts to escape or for behaving uh in an insulting manner to their characters these were pure and simple terrorists some of them feel guilt about some of the statements they've made we feel the guilt is entirely inappropriate they were subjected to extreme duress when making these statements in one case one of the hostages induced to make a statement on camera with the promise that some of his colleagues would be released if he did so it's obvious to me that we said things were nice because we didn't want to tell the iranians into their face and on film that people were being mistreated and abused we were under duress at the time that that the interview was made that's that's all i wanted to say i just want to set the record straight they had reports that we were passing notes and communicating uh and some of the guys may have had weapons how that was possible i don't know what weapons you know a spoon and uh so they brought in these goons with these uzis and g3s and shook the place down and we were we assumed the classic position against the walls with our blindfolds and they cocked the guns in our ears and uh we experienced total terror many of the hostages have described beatings to us the beatings were administered in such a way as not to leave marks there there are some sequelae of the beatings and some of the hostages one for instance complains of a ringing in his ears after having been kicked into unconsciousness 21 year old stephen curtly was able to tell his visiting mother that he was not mistreated it was more senior men in the military and diplomatic ranks who took punishment and contrary to many predictions the hostage americans developed no affection

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hostage americans developed no affection no sympathy for their terrorizers only on a b-52 john hart nbc news v spot the chief state department doctor says that some of the hostages show signs of temporary psychiatric illness but that there is no sign now that these people will be permanently disabled we think the former hostages will land at stewart airport on sunday about 60 miles north of new york city and then be taken to the u.s military academy at west point where they can be guaranteed their privacy this has not been announced officially but it looks as though that's where they'll go lloyd dobbins paid a visit today at west point today no officer would say the released hostages were coming but everyone acted as though they were streets and sidewalks on the campus were being cleared extra telephones were being installed in the thayer hotel on post and the hotel's kitchen staff was already planning sunday night's menu all of that just in case we're just getting ready to take them in case we're tasked to do that west point looks like a fortress but it is not it is a national historic landmark there are two and a half million visitors a year a state road cuts across the campus but there are parts of it that can be secured and those are the parts that the recently released americans and their families will use the 170 room hotel on campus will be emptied by noon tomorrow in case it's needed and west point cadets hope it will be i think it's excellent i mean this is about the best place i could pick for it well i think everybody in the community is quite excited and very proud you know i'm honored to have him here perhaps to mask their pride there is already a cadet joke they say west point isn't like being held hostage but it isn't like being free either lloyd dobbins nbc news west point the hostages are expected in washington on tuesday the speaker of the house said today they would arrive at andrews air force base early in the afternoon

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force base early in the afternoon the white house says they've been invited to see the president on tuesday there is talk of an evening service at the national cathedral there is also talk of letting the hostages go home on wednesday free at last of the confinement and the demands of protocol from new york this is nbc nightly news with jessica savage good evening the former hostages all 52 of them are coming home they leave the american medical facility in wiesbaden west germany at 4 am eastern time tomorrow some of them are described as being elated some bitter and others depressed but all of them apparently anticipating their arrival home in the united states fred francis reports it was very nice on this last day at wiesbaden some of the former hostages discovered they had lost their privacy morehead kennedy was annoyed by it did you get to take any walks like this in the last 14 months now this is why i was so looking forward to this walk in a nice interrupted quiet stroll through a quiet german city doctors here are concerned about the consequences of the world's curiosity one psychiatrist said the 52 americans are in remarkably good shape but that some may not be able to handle their celebrity status many though felt a need to talk john limpert believes that wholesale condemnation of the iranian people is wrong how do you say they're people of talent ability great kindness great hospitality that's what i thought before i still think so katherine kobe said she was treated well but terror was a fact of life they were trying very hard in other words to convince us that they weren't terrorists but as i said to one of the gals when she said we're really not terrorists are we i said you wanna trade places with me you know can i walk out of here sorry uh can i walk out of here and uh you know come walk out that door and she said well no and i said why can't i walk out that door and well obviously there was a gun on the other side of that door details of captivity came from

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details of captivity came from lieutenant colonel david roeder he spent 63 days in solitary i lost over 50 pounds during during the entire period and which is a good aspect i guess not all in not all due to the fact that i was a captive but due to the fact that i got to the point where i was exercising uh in excess of four hours a day and walking six hours and just to keep myself from living a sedate existence and so i could sleep at night and things like that and donald sharer came out of his ordeal with a sense of victory we feel like we won we beat them we be in america america and the hostages took them to the cleaners but shira and roeder do not see themselves as heroes roeder said the families they will finally see tomorrow are the real heroes fred francis nbc news wiesbaden malcolm kelp 43 from brooklyn new york and late of tehran emerged from the wiesbaden hospital today and gave reporters one of the most detailed descriptions to date of the horrors of

captivity calp was wearing a t-shirt emblazoned freedom day america and he gave these following details of the 444 days when he was not [Music] free our apologies due to technical difficulties we had some problems bringing you the interview with malcolm kelp of brooklyn new york that interview is ready now he is one of the captives former captives who gives details one of the most detailed descriptions of his captivity

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due to the technical difficulties of live television we are unable to bring you that report at this time president reagan has invited the ambassadors from five countries all countries which acknowledged helping to free the americans to the white house reception on tuesday in honor of the former hostages those countries are britain algeria switzerland canada and west germany the ambassadors will meet with the former hostages on tuesday but tomorrow there is of course that more poignant meeting the former hostages and their families at the military academy in west point and tonight we have these four reports in phoenix this morning members of two families showed up at the airport rita odie whose husband robert was the oldest hostage and the lopez family from globe arizona their son james a marine guard has been credited with delaying demonstrators from taking over the embassy allowing some of the embassy staff to escape at los angeles airport the flight to washington included deborah plotkin whose husband jerry was the only civilian caught inside the embassy she's been on the phone with him almost constantly the reason i'm late this morning is because i was talking to him do you think those phone conversations will help pave the way for that first meeting oh definitely definitely it's relieved a lot of anxiety in my mind and in his too that everything at home is status quo just like when he left and in san diego dorothea moorefield with her four sons she's been one of the most outspoken of the wise her husband richard was the u.s council general he has not talked to her about his treatment wanting to do that face to face the next few days is going to be very intense very emotional very stressful but at the same time very normal i mean he's coming home we will see him thank god in a protected environment for the reunion the one thing i was so afraid of was a

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thing i was so afraid of was a a reunion on an airstrip with with a million cameras this way our meeting will be private she's also relieved her family's life will soon be private again once the hoopla is over david burrington nbc news san diego the little house in northwest detroit has been a full house all week and today maddie jones and her four daughters were packing new clothes year-old clothes that will be new to charles when he sees them and presents from two missed christmases all listened to the cunnings and goings of relatives friends and daughters boyfriends a busy time and just as well because it took maddie jones mind away from wondering what tomorrow would bring how it would go i just hope that everything will work out fine that i can be a good help to charles and his getting over his experiences a local businessman hired a limousine to drive him to the airport a limousine the luggage was loaded and the five joneses emerged to take the first step of their part of the journey to washington tonight west point tomorrow hand in the air a daughter with a headache a daughter nervous about flying and a mother nervous about tomorrow tonight she will be staying at a washington area hotel with the other hostage families who are undoubtedly feeling the same nervousness about tomorrow fred briggs nbc news washington the tower at washington's national airport was specially decorated for the occasion as many of the families began arriving this afternoon there were the sickmans from missouri parents of marine sergeant rodney sickman the sharers from virginia family of navy commander donald sharer some of the families like the lewis's from homer illinois parents of marine sergeant paul lewis are beginning to tire of the limelight so are the cooks of tennessee parents of vice council donald cook a reporter asked them do you wish all of

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a reporter asked them do you wish all of us would go away but others like the lotterbacks of ohio parents of administrative aide stephen lauterbach understand the reason for all the hoopla the country needs to celebrate they need to work and we the state department has taken over a hotel in a washington suburb so the families can have some privacy they'll remain here in seclusion until tomorrow morning when they'll meet

president reagan then they go on to stewart air station next to west point for what many are calling the reunion of a lifetime that too will be private no cameras no dignitaries the symbols of a festive occasion are everywhere yellow ribbons welcome home signs to the roses carried by dorothy royer of texas mother of william roy she and royer's sister marianne stevens rode in from the baltimore airport mrs stevens tipping the cabbie with a bottle of champagne and a big hug george lewis nbc news washington when the returning hostages are on final approach to stuart field tomorrow they will be headed for reunions with their families that the state department says will be strictly private they will first touch american soil here on the apron of the converted air force base no one but the families most flown here earlier from washington and government officials will be looking on at the former hostages request the state department said television cameras and reporters will be kept far away from the reunions but all along the route they will be bust from the airport to west point 20 miles away the returning 52 will see how much residents of the area want to take part in their homecoming people were busy today putting up american flags along the new york state roads and yellow ribbons that sprouted by the thousands in the little towns around west point the thayer hotel at west point where the reunions will continue until tuesday closed to the public today the last of 59 guests who had been at the hotel checked out by noon today and the rooms like this one were ready for the two-night stay the army then began sealing off west

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the army then began sealing off west point much of which is accessible to the public two busloads of extra military police arrived from fort dix to make sure the hotel stays off limits but the state department also said today that any of the hostages who want to will finally tell their stories in the united states and a news conference here tuesday before the big welcome planned in washington bob jamison nbc news west point new york create american former hostage malcolm kelp said today that he was held for 374 days in solitary confinement in tehran and that his captors handcuffed him and beat him for several times when he tried to escape earlier in our broadcast due to a technical electrical circuit problem we were unable to bring you calt's statement here now is what kelp told reporters today well throw me choke me kick me in the head kick me in the body punch me in the face punch me in her body throw me against concrete walls things like that oh you know it was there was physical punishment humiliation denigration poor food isolation what else can you say really yeah there were escape attempts yeah well they didn't work they didn't work because nobody escaped but in a situation like that you have to give it your best effort and what happened was in most cases uh physical torture after the uh after they apprehended the escapee yeah i tried it more than once yeah more than once i was involved in three but i've got i'm just bad like escapee i guess i was mistreated before i even escaped that's why i escaped can you tell me how you would mr pj how i was mistreated i was put in solitary confinement a total of 374 days and during that time i attempted to escape three times uh first time was on december 23rd i didn't get very far

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i got about two feet outside uh two feet off my bed my colleague of mine had escaped a little earlier in that that night and they had fighted him and that it alerted the rest of the gods and the second time was in uh because it must have been may of 80 i tried to hex on my way out of uh out of a room i was in they caught me there and the third time was on june 27 1980 when uh i picked the lock on the second floor window and jumped out and uh got outside the building but they picked me up again because the watchdog had alerted them but yeah that was about the three times but other people have tried to escape from time to time i was in 22 different places during the solitary confinement and they ranged from a cell to a very big room and you know just solidarity confinement really you got yourself and nobody else they kept me handcuffed and tied for seven straight days they physically assaulted me on two occasions about six of them while i was handcuffed they came into my room at 3 30 in the morning and they wearing masks they were carrying a saw rifles but that was for shakedown inspection at first i thought it was going to be an execution but then i could see it was a shakedown inspection but it didn't get me a little worried originally they never beefed us up you know they never gave us any clothing they never gave us any proper food even at the very end well it wasn't the worm powder milk wasn't too bad because you could occupy your day picking out the worms they

never told me i was leaving until 15 minutes before they started taking me to the airport but of course at the airport we had to run through a gauntlet most of those people have just climbed down out of trees none of them were very nice well some were nicer than others but still it was a collective effort on their part to take over the embassy and to hold us hostage for 444 days

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what's my view about them buy iraqi war bonds you know that's my view i'd pay him back out of a v-52 bomber that's the way i pay him back i get made billion dollars worth of bombs but you know that's a decision mr reagan has to make calpe if you will notice there is wearing a t-shirt emblazoned freedom day america that's in celebration of tomorrow a very special day the 52 freed americans will finally once again set foot on american soil this has surely been a week of high emotions for the hostages for their families and their countrymen but americans are not the only ones touched by the hostages plight today a group of west german school children went to the hospital in wiesbaden to tell in song the 52 americans how they felt we wish all the best to you who have had a bad time and that you will forget the last 444 days pretty soon we hope you will enjoy our songs and wish all the best to you in the future [Applause] is

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[Applause] a little christmas to make up in some small way for the two christmases the 52 this is stewart field in newberg new york where we are awaiting the arrival of the airplane carrying the 52 freed american hostages the airplane has made one pass of the field it is in the area but it has not come into sight yet it is a c-137 a 707 that has been converted for military use we are at a location at the extremity of the airfield because this is where the state department wants us the building you see in the center is steward 1 is the hangar where the families of the hostages been waiting for about an hour little more than an hour we expect the plane carrying the hostages to taxi to the front of that building there is some idea that the one plane you see has been left there to further block our view that being the case simply because both the state department and the hostages have expressed the desire to have cameras as far away as possible with me is nbc news correspondent bob jameson who has been on the streets of newburgh today what's the mood out there today bob lee from the moment the hostages the returning hostages and their families leave this former air force base they will realize that it is a celebration and not the low key welcome that the state of congressman wanted but here is the police in the tree line in just a second and a cheer goes up from the crowd here on what is called rocket hill on the edge of stuart field in newburgh new york [Music] the hostage relatives were brought in this afternoon in three air force planes they were all parked in front of building one steward one two were moved but as i said a moment ago the third was left in a direct line

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ago the third was left in a direct line of sight here from the hill i noticed that they were already referring lead to this plane today as freedom one freedom one [Music] now if he follows the practice of the 707 that came in earlier uh he'll move very slowly and deliberately down the first 707 that came in moved all the way down near a hangar that right now is out of view that is a farther down the tarmac from stewart one and then turn around his other option is to just come in slowly and stop on the far side of the dc-9 is that bob that's in the foreground there it's the military version of the dc-9 it's referred to by the air force as a c9 party it looks like of the presidential wing from andrews air force base there's a small crowd i would say a few hundred people maybe that managed to get into a steward field to line the route that they expect the buses to follow but there are many more people out in the street outside are they not people have been lining up all day long here in this part of new york state to welcome the returning hostages home several of the towns that dock the route that their buses will take from here to the military academy at west point have arranged impromptu celebrations with the hope that the returning hostages will somehow stop but officials do not expect that to happen [Music] there are american flags of every size shape and variety being displayed by people of every

age the 20 miles from here to the point at which the reunited families and the former hostages will be put up for the night at the thayer hotel on the grounds of the military academy at west point beginning early yesterday morningly [Music] townspeople spontaneously started decorating little villages particularly

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decorating little villages particularly highland falls the one which is adjacent to the military in canada and so they have planned quite a celebration a hero's welcome and it's more than curiosity on the part of the people who have come out it is genuine genuine feeling which has brought them out to share this emotional return and it appears to be taking the first option there and it looked like the plane was going to start to move behind the other air force yet maybe not we were told yesterday lee in a visit to stuart field that he would park near gate three that this air force jet will be parked near gate three the hostages families would be inside watching it with the option to come out and and meet the meet their family members at plane side or to wait in wait inside the terminal we're about a 30-minute reunion would take place before they would board the buses incidentally those buses have smoked glass windows they've taken every precaution they really uh want it to be a very private affair the buses have been here since about a quarter to twelve west point was the feyer hotel at west point was closed to the public yesterday uh evening where the returned hostages and their families will be spending two nights and they brought in extra mps to secure much of west point which is accessible to the public under normal time one army official said to me yesterday that it would be tougher to get into the thayer hotel today than it would be the super bowl without a ticket [Music] a group of people standing on a what looks like a material handling truck of some sort waving at the plane as it moves slowly into its parking position another chair went up here on the hill is the writing united states of america became very clearly

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very clearly evident on the side of the plane as it turned now appears he is going to rotate that door away from our position the exit door i can't tell from this i can't tell from this distance which way the the ground handler is trying to get him to turn but there are several people already on the tarmac and now they are moving into place the ramp carried on the back of a truck and there are a number of people dressed in civilian clothes who are following that truck up to the airplane and the back door is already open don't appear to be great numbers of people however leaving the hangar first off first people are off the plane here come the families those first people offer a group of air force officers or enlisted men it appeared that is quite a sizable group that's gathering at the tarmac however [Music] the families appear to be lined up not in single file but two by two approaching the front of the airplane and some of them are heading toward the rear stairway [Music] a marine saluting smartly stepped from the plane [Music] another and another [Music]

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[Music] it appears that one of the two women hostages is waving so far all the activity is at the front door [Music] we are quite some distance i think we should explain lee i would you guess this is a more than a thousand yards 1500 maybe and even with binoculars it is very difficult to uh binoculars and telephoto lenses it is difficult to tell what's going on [Music] but we can see the first embraces taking place on the tarmac at the foot of the plane but of course we it is impossible to identify any of the people involved as the rest of the 52 attorneys continue to come out of the front of the airplane and down the stairs it appears at this moment they're all going to use that front door [Music] the plane made a very pretty pass over the field at 10 minutes to 3 eastern time the sun sparkling off of the silver fuselage silver and white fuselage and then landed about three minutes later there are waves and salutes and embraces taking place just out of camera range [Music] of all the 14 long months of captivity it could be that one of the toughest moments is waiting at the top of that ramp when you see your loved one for the first time in a long long time this was quite a trip today which began before 5 a.m eastern standard time about 10 hours ago and will not end for perhaps another 45 minutes to an hour when returning hostages and their families

00:42:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs&t=2521s)

returning hostages and their families are delivered by bus to the thayer hotel on the grounds of the military academy at west point all of this is to be strictly private the state department saying it was following the wishes of a consensus of the hostages aspire television cameras and reporters from access to the grounds here and at the hotel where they will spend two nights before going to washington for the ceremonies there on tuesday afternoon however the hostages have promised a news conference for those who wish to participate on tuesday morning here at west point we do not know who or how many [Music] it's strictly a voluntary meeting with the press ali i wonder if they're still going to go inside and continue their reunions inside the terminal i don't know they've moved the buses a couple of times from the first time they brought them in the last time i saw them they were over by stuart one so theoretically they could go right from where they are and get on the buses but there was supposed to be about a half an hour inside the building as i recall some people are re-boarding the airplane but we can't tell precisely who they are they may just be someone people concerned with the servicing of the aircraft which has made this a 3 000 mile plus journey today it seems that everyone between here and west point wants to take part in this celebration and say hello welcome home thank you we love you if people have not displayed yellow ribbons outside their homes they've tied them onto their clothing everything in newberg seems to have a yellow ribbon on it they've tied a huge one around the airport tower this morning preparation for the uri you've been able to tell with your binoculars whether all of the 52 are off the plane well it seems that they are although there is still an air force someone from the air force standing at the top of the ramp to direct traffic

[00:44:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs&t=2641s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs&t=2641s)

the top of the ramp to direct traffic and it does not appear that that this long line of people extending uh from the left away from the airplane who would appear to be the families does not appear that the returning hostages that people aboard that airplane have made their way down even to the halfway point of what we can see [Music] i would think that they would be off that plane even quicker than businessmen off a normal shuttle flight the first off appeared to be some of the marine guards from the embassy who saluted smartly and moved crisply down the stairway in uniform not in the parkas that they had been wearing in the pictures we had seen from germany but in marine corps uniform when the immediate reunion is over the families and the ex-hostages will board six buses which as you said have smoked windows on them it's a 17-mile trip from here at stuart field to the academy at west point a state policeman said today that's a drive a bus normally makes in 20 minutes but because of the way that people have lined the roads and would like the ex-hostages to stop they have no idea how long it's going to take and the first crowd that they will encounter is barely a half a mile from where the reunions are taking place now at the gate to stuart field and will continue broken in spots but nearly unbroken all the way through the populated area of newburgh there will be some breaks along what we believe to be route 9w that they will take but when they reach windsor new york about halfway between here and where they will spend the evening at west point 52 american flags have been erected on one side of the highway as they head south eight american flags

[00:46:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs&t=2760s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs&t=2760s)

as they head south eight american flags at half staff representing the memory of those airmen killed in the aborted rescue attempt last april standing on the other side of the highway west point has turned out in style only exceeded perhaps by the the the joyous atmosphere in highland falls a little town that is right next to west point and they are planning quite a sumptuous brunch at west point for the hostages and their families the largest crowd is probably at the thayer gate of west point which is where the village of highland falls and the military academy property meets normally this is a place where people do not slow down but it is accessible to the public and people going from one point to another in this part of new york state will drive right through the academy but there is a large crowd gathered there today displaying american flags and of course yellow ribbons in profusion they sprouted like spring crocuses around here the last couple of days a couple people raised the question is why are certain people getting back on the plane but we're so far away we just can't tell who they are [Music] people for some kind of explanation why they might be reporting just perhaps the flight crew no it appears that there are a substantial number of people who have been on and off

the plane since it's been there and i speculation might include that there were some hostages who wanted to greet their relatives on the airplane and privately yeah we keep calling them hostages but they are no longer hosting excise there are in addition to the six of the buses in the caravan as i counted them when they came in four trucks which they've appeared to have already loaded one of us for the luggage and i assume the goods that were bought on the buying spree at wiesbaden

00:48:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs&t=2880s)

spree at wiesbaden and also i'm told they stopped today at the shannon airport in ireland on their way back and did some shopping they stopped at the shannon freeport and were met by the irish prime minister and were given gifts from the government of ireland flowers have already begun to arrive for some of the returning hostages and their families at the thayer hotel several floral shops said yesterday that they began to get orders and expected to be deluged today the first several to arrive were a couple of plants one for all of the 52 returning americans notre dame college in new hampshire is an example sent 52 roses to the hotel one for each of the returning americans there's an interesting thing developing here in front of us which the viewers can't see right now but that is there an exodus from stuart field has begun people who are higher on the hill just wanted to be here to see the plane come in they can't see the hostages that closely and they know the plane is down and so they've started on their way uh back into newburgh in the out of stuart field this is actually a better view of of the return than we thought we would have when the state department said it wanted it strictly private and wanted none of the emotions shared with other people [Music] it appears now that everyone has moved away from the airplane and is now gathering in the in little groups the long line starting to break up a little bit perhaps representing family units there are some military people coming off of the rear exit of the plane it appears that no one is coming off any longer the front although several people are making their way down the stairs this process will continue for several minutes nbc news will have continuing coverage throughout the day and tonight at 11 30 10 30 central time nbc news will present a special report on the return of the hostages and now back to basketball and don

00:50:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs&t=3001s)

and now back to basketball and don quickie [Music] and chief washington correspondent roger mugg good evening it was prayers and play today for the former hostages in their safe haven at west point for the first time since november of 1979 they woke up in their native country tomorrow they face the rigors of a washington welcome but today there was time for relaxation and reflection on their captivity george lewis has the details many of the freed americans weary from all the ordeals of the past 14 months and all the excitement of the past week slept in this morning others like air force captain paul needham of dayton ohio were up early jogging generally the former hostages are in fairly good physical shape but many of them acknowledge the iran experience will leave behind a lot of emotional scars robert bluecker an economics officer described his treatment as terrible he says it got worse after the failed american rescue attempt i learned in july of the april rescue attempt yes but three months later what was your reaction to that i was delighted to hear it in spite of the the bad results people that unfortunately lost their lives i was delighted that the government had launched such a thing just to regret that it failed did you ever give up hope [Music] sort of sort of i thought i was on death row for a period of months charles jones the only black held all 444 days telling his story for the first time all right put up against my head and uh being threatened with having my eyes put out which they didn't do thank god right now put your eyes up oh yes just like an animal in a zoo in what way how were we like we were fed uh we couldn't do this we couldn't do that we couldn't even talk to our next-door neighbors but the ranking member of the group

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but the ranking member of the group former charged affair bruce langan of bethesda maryland says in spite of all the mistreatment the united states should adhere to its bargain to unfreeze iranian assets we do not that puts us in the same category as those who don't respect international obligations such as the country from which we have just come some of the former hostages and their families went shopping this afternoon

at the west point post exchange many of them arrived here without enough warm winter clothing there also was a worship service for many in the group a chance to give thanks for being delivered from the long ordeal in iran a clergyman who attended the service described it as both solemn and joyful when they arrived they came to they just came down the aisle very humbly you know very i was noticing some of them were very haggard looking and very uh shaken some of them were just beaming the former hostages also expressed gratitude for the 14 months of support from the american public and the tumultuous welcome home yesterday afternoon my heart was right up in my throat many times on the trip in from the airport i can't i can't put in words how good it feels we're so happy to be back it's more fun it's like having a bath in love many of the freed americans say they have a whole lot more to tell about their 444 days in captivity they've called a news conference for nine tomorrow morning before they leave for washington george lewis nbc news west point new york president reagan got a briefing on the problems still facing the hostages today a briefing from his secretary of state alexander haye the president was told that of the 52 hostages one-fourth have severe psychological problems and another one-fourth have some problems here's more from roger mudd in washington these past few days appear to have been tough on the reagan's emotions at the white house yesterday when the reagans greeted the hostage families the

[00:54:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs&t=3240s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs&t=3240s)

greeted the hostage families the president's eyes filled up with tears and mrs reagan cried openly and today when he learned the full extent of the hostage's mental problems mr reagan was said by his press secretary to have been moved and to have been watery-eyed john palmer reports from the white house the president was told that the mental problems of the freed hostages may take weeks or months of psychiatric care to treat psychiatrists who examine the 52 americans say a fourth of them seem to have no major problems about half have some problems but not serious ones but that 12 of the former hostages have severe complications the president reviewed the condition of the freed hostages today on a case-by-case basis earlier the president signed a joint congressional resolution designating this thursday as a day of thanksgiving i call on as this resolution does on all americans to join this thursday in raising thanks that our sons and daughters have returned they have shown by their example that the spirit of our country can never be broken senator jesse holmes of north carolina who met with the president told reporters later he doesn't think the administration should be honor bound to abide by the hostage agreement with iran i don't think the national honor the united states hangs on a thin thread of of living up to anything involving a bunch of bombs and as far as i'm concerned they can take a long walk on a short pier during the white house welcome ceremony for the freed hostages tomorrow the president is expected to issue a strong warning that any future taking of american hostages would be met by swift and decisive action on the part of the new administration john palmer nbc news at the white house one of the things the experts say of the hostages is that their problems of adjustment may be in the future both for the those with some psychological problems and for the others who show no damage

[00:56:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs&t=3360s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs&t=3360s)

others who show no damage our science correspondent robert bazelle has been looking into all this and here's what he's learned the greatest danger facing the former hostages may not come from the effects of what happened to them while they were prisoners we have seen many careers destroyed not so much because of the reaction of the victims but because of the reaction of the environment to which they they eventually returned dr frederick hacker is a psychiatrist who has studied the survivors of several terrorist incidents we have seen in our studies of hostages that the public interest is maximal at the time that they are being released then but they are really kings and queens for a day and then the the interest drops very very sharply and after a week nobody cares anymore and their communities and their former jobs and whatnot and the former associates treat them rather with disdain and there's a kind of slight embarrassment almost as if what has been done to them has rubbed off on them dr hacker and other experts in this field say that the way to minimize the damage from these encounters is with education telling the hostages the community and particularly the families what to expect once the hostages return home [Applause] much of the knowledge for such a program comes from what the government learned in bringing back the prisoners of

war from vietnam even though the pows were held much longer psychologists say there were many similarities between them and the hostages from tehran one of those who dealt with the vietnam prisoners advised the state department on its program to treat the freed hostages they will probably have some sleep difficulties they'll probably have some pinned up angers and frustrations that all of a sudden may flare up you really don't know where they came from there'll be a honeymoon period when things just go beautifully and then something will as they find out

00:58:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs&t=3480s)

and then something will as they find out what changes have really occurred there'll be some differences but you can expect that and the key stress is the fact that the person in captivity no matter how long may change values may change orientations may change they see their life sort of passed before them and they restructure their values according to dr mccubbin there is a danger particularly for the marine hostages such as william gallegos that they will be judged by their superiors somehow to have failed by being taken captive i know my superiors know how i feel the risks are much greater for damage to self-esteem and one's personality to be judged survive you get credit for survival in a hostage situation but to come back after that survival and said you didn't do well that's a lasting the experts we interviewed say there is no question that the hostages are being treated well in these first few days after their release but many are worried about how they'll be treated in the long run robert bazelle nbc news on more occasions than washingtonians care to admit this city does not see hear or feel what the rest of the country does but tomorrow despite the official white house welcome home for from the president and six thousand invited dignitaries this will be just another american yellow ribbon town andrea mitchell reports from andrews air force base to a suburban construction site washington is getting ready at the air force base camera platforms were going up network television producers were being briefed that's fine we still got a good shot okay let me see if i can do that and yellow ribbons were being tied here and along the route the motorcade will take to the white house the official welcome from president reagan will take place here on the south lawn unofficial welcomes will come later at home in falls church virginia neighbors will drape this 40-foot banner across the street to let gary lee know how they feel it

01:00:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs&t=3601s)

to let gary lee know how they feel it makes you feel special living in a neighborhood where um you know it makes you feel that feel glad that they're um their dad's back and everything i think it's meant a lot for everyone and i i think it's brought everyone closer to the united states in the maryland suburb where bruce langen lives the banner is already up so is the christmas tree in the langan home and by tomorrow the few houses not already decorated will be you can't help but feel a lot and want to participate in the happiness of having them back home again all of washington seems to feel the same way andrea mitchell nbc news washington nbc news will carry tomorrow's 9 a.m voluntary press conference by the hostages at west point and also their noon washington arrival and the white house ceremony roger mudd nbc news washington there's a lot of good feeling in the country this week because of the release of the hostages some people may be feeling better than others because they stand to make a little money out of the hostages we asked robert hager to look into what we might call the commercial aspects of all this [Music] the first of the instant publications on the released hostages hit newsstands in new york this evening and will be in other cities tomorrow it's a 96 page photo magazine by cbs publications called free free costs 2.95 in kingsport tennessee a whole book on the release hostages rolled off the presses this morning it's called 444 days it costs 4.95 in paperback or 8.95 in hardcover literary agent bill adler expects some of the former hostages to get big advances for books i think that two or three of the stories if properly presented to publishers will probably go for over a hundred thousand dollars in in the advance the publisher pays for the book luisa kennedy and her husband morehead are now represented by the william

01:02:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs&t=3720s)

are now represented by the william morris talent agency barbara rosen and her husband barry have talked to at least two book agents others want some of the action ferrari jeans has custom designed 52 pair of jeans for the hostages a competing company has told the hostage family headquarters they'd like to give each hostage a five-year supply of their genes in washington buttons that cost 35 cents wholesale are being sold two dollars for the small ones three dollars for the big ones and in nashville tennessee it feels so good to have your home composers of the yellow ribbon song have rewritten its lyrics the new version will be in record stores later this week [Music] robert hager nbc news new york the suitland parkway in prince george's county maryland heading toward the district of columbia the caravan of buses and police cars bringing the released american hostages their immediate families and friends to washington dc where they will go down pennsylvania avenue tom pettitt is on pennsylvania avenue tom john it is 52 degrees in downtown washington as the people here await the arrival of the 52 former hostages there's been a little rain but not much the people are gathering not leaving so the official welcome from the people of washington awaits thank you tom there they are they'll be in washington dc before long um we will probably break into our regular programming during the upcoming half hour wherever you are and then in less than 30 minutes from now we'll be back on with full live coverage of the motorcade down pennsylvania avenue past the capitol to the white house and we'll stay with that coverage and see president reagan welcome the hostages are former hostages and their families to the south lawn of the white house john chancellor nbc news

01:04:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs&t=3842s)

the white house john chancellor nbc news washington this has been an nbc news special report and has come to you from washington on the homecoming of the former hostages here from washington is nbc news correspondent john chancellor and there you see in the center of your picture the convoy of 13 or 14 buses bringing the released american hostages to the nation's capital they are now in the district of columbia heading for downtown washington where tom pettitt is now tom john the district of columbia is ready flags yellow ribbon police cars have cleared pennsylvania avenue it's very quiet here all of a sudden one has a feeling he's sitting on a sea of emotion about to erupt into a tidal wave that these people will send to the former hostages in their 15 buses passing by thank you tom and we will here at nbc have full coverage of these events as they unfold this afternoon jury the same route that the president followed in the uh inaugural parade not long ago and on to the south lawn of the white house 6 000 people have been invited they will meet members of congress and hear from the president himself our coverage will begin on the hour john special report and has come to you from washington [Music] this is nbc nightly news with john chancelor in new york and chief washington correspondent roger mudd [Applause] good evening washington d.c said welcome home to the former hostages today it was billed as a low-key welcome short on speeches and protocol but it turned out to be filled with high drama and emotion 451 days after the americans were

01:06:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs&t=3962s)

451 days after the americans were captured in tehran more from chief washington correspondent roger mudd once again it was almost too much the hostages said they weren't heroes but the agony of waiting made them seem to be heroes vice president bush who welcomed them to washington said he didn't think he was intruding [Music] welcome back oh what a great great thrill for the united states of america but as each plane load arrived from west point there were moments so emotionally intense that even watching them on tv at home seemed uncomfortable i it was purely and simply joyous uncluttered by the rancor and division and controversy of so many recent national experiences and the crowds along the highway from the andrews air force base into washington made each hostage indeed feel liberated [Music] tens of thousands of people lined pennsylvania avenue to watch 15 ordinary buses go by few got more than a glimpse of the 52 liberated hostages this was the same street traversed one week ago by the reagan inaugural parade today's outpouring of affection wrapped in a mantle of yellow ribbons and

01:08:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs&t=4080s)

in a mantle of yellow ribbons and red white and blue flags was more than a mere political gesture and for at least one of the former hostages bruce langen it was epic langen put it this way i don't think any of us americans have ever seen anything quite like it quite so spontaneous quite so beautiful in terms of the best qualities of our people and we are deeply grateful for it carrying cheap souvenirs the spectators dispersed quietly into the unusually warm afternoon 52 degrees and the 52 former hostages went on to the white house it was the kind of welcoming ceremony usually reserved for heads of state but with a lot more emotion and enthusiasm as the first bus carrying the former hostages and their families arrived at the north portico vice president george bush led the guests inside on the south lawn six thousand people were gathered members of congress the diplomatic corps the cabinet the joint chiefs of staff and colonel charlie beckwith and his rescue team who lost eight men trying to free the hostages last spring ladies and gentlemen the president of the united states and the 53 freed americans president reagan paid tribute to the former hostages calling them men and women of courage who represent the best in america and reassured them that the government wants them to continue in the diplomatic and military service then the president issued a warning let terrorists be aware that when the rules of international behavior are violated our policy will be one of swift and effective retribution we hear it said that we live in an era of limit to our powers we'll let it also be understood there are limits to our patients

01:10:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs&t=4200s)

there are limits to our patients american charges bruce langan spoke for the freed americans 53 americans who will always have a love affair with this country and with who join with you in a prayer of thanksgiving the ceremony ended with the singing of god bless america [Music] john palmer nbc news at the white house heroes are not the hostages and their families lingered in the white house as summer tourists would before they made an unscheduled stop at the state department then the buses took them to the motel where the families had first gathered on sunday john dancy reports when the americans and their families got to the crystal city marriott across the potomac from washington they found the unrestrained joy that has filled washington today waiting for them again that same sense of excitement also filled the former hostages this is a fantastic day i mean it's hard to believe i've never seen anything like it in my many years most uh incredible people in germany kept telling us uh you haven't seen anything yet they were very very kind to us there and we thought nobody could be better [Applause] but they they would say don't worry about it you haven't seen anything and they were right this has just been absolutely terrific we knew we would get a big reception but i don't think any of us was really prepared for how wonderful it was uh it was really it was unbelievable it was just stunned us really after more than a year of being linked together by common experience the hostages and their families will soon take up their separate lives again this will be one of the last times together as a group john donsley nbc news washington before they went to washington for their official welcome the

01:12:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs&t=4320s)

official welcome the former hostages held a press conference at west point where they've spent the last two days 41 of the 52 showed up for questioning by reporters bob jameson was there reported divisions among the hostages over president carter's handling of the crisis did not surface during the news conference instead there were expressions of support for the carter policies beginning with bruce langen who presided over the meeting with reporters the point i wanted to make and that was to re-affirm respect we feel toward president carter i have no criticism of the carter administration i feel that everything possible uh was done to obtain our release john lindberg avoided direct criticism of carter when asked if the shaw should have been allowed to enter the united states for medical treatment when you're in the when you're in the embassy in in tehran or wherever um it seems that washington should always know better that you always know better than what washington should do john graves said he was convinced the militants who seized the embassy were indeed students marine sergeant william gallegos who went on television to say he and the others were being treated well by their captors said he was trying to send a message i was saying that the treatment was good for my fellow colleagues so that they would not be mistreated but also i was trying to say that we were not being traded well some of the former hostages played down earlier statements they were mistreated or tortured and elizabeth ann swift warned newsmen to be accurate in reporting charges of mistreatment saying

such charges attributed to her were not true this appearance was voluntary 11 chose not to appear as for reports that some were having difficulty readjusting why shouldn't they ask colonel thomas schaefer the biggest problem of my day in captivity was trying to determine what i was going to eat with my rice and 48 hours later president carter is embracing me with tears in his eyes i had problems coping with that but i've

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i had problems coping with that but i've got a temporary problem we all do we'll be pretty strong citizens here in a few short days marine sergeant johnny mckeel answered persistent reports that some of his colleagues had suffered severe psychological damage this way i feel from the people i've talked talking to since my stay here at west point that we're all alright and as soon as uh they let us get home so especially the marines get back to chasing women good humor was replaced by a motion when mentioned was made of the eight who died during the rescue attempt or when the question was are you heroes i think it's almost unanimous among us that the real heroes of this event have been the families there was one more salute from the cadet corps at west point as the 52 headed for washington bruce langen told reporters that on his riding to west point sunday after returning to the united states he had looked out the windows of these buses and knew that we were home and that america was well bob james nbc news west point new york the american commandos who tried and failed to rescue the american hostages in tehran were at the white house today colonel charlie beckwith and the survivors of operation blue light were honored in today's ceremony along with the eight men who died on that desert mission more on this from robert hager suddenly after all the months of avoiding reporters and cameras there they were at the white house today 30 of the american soldiers who took part in last april's rescue mission that failed colonel charlie beckwith tough a legend in the army he was in charge of the ground forces major general james vaughn overall commander of the raid beckwith remembering that night now been a heavy heavy load to carry everybody here a lot of people prepare

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everybody here a lot of people prepare to give their life in general thoughts opinion except for the loss of one helicopter this freedom ceremony could have been held nine months ago general there are so many passages being said that had you gotten in you would not have been successful in pulling them out hypothetical sir nobody in this group that believes that sorry stood by his decision to abort the raid one of the toughest decisions i've ever had to make in my life with a very correct one had another chance i didn't want to go the first time we had to go could there have been a second mission in the second mission and we've been directed to go and was in the best interest of this country your god damn right i'd go what i get paid for it's what you pay my salary for families of the eight servicemen who lost their lives in the raid were also here today and at arlington national cemetery where three of the airmen are buried in a common grave yellow flowers placed by the stone and a fresh wreath with a yellow ribbon and a card placed there today by a young widow robert hager nbc news washington the white house talked this week about some of the former hostages suffering from severe mental problems but doctors who have worked with the hostages say that is exaggerated one doctor on the today program this morning said it is his impression that the hostages are doing remarkably well and a state department doctor told the new york times none of the former hostages had what could be described as a severe psychiatric condition today some of the former hostages were given welcomes by their hometowns bob jameson and some other correspondents have been keeping an eye on these stories though there were no presidents or generals or ambassadors there the former hostages agreed that today's celebrations of their return were the sweetest marine sergeant william gallego speaking to a crowd of 5 thousand people in his hometown of pueblo colorado

01:18:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs&t=4680s)

hometown of pueblo colorado as you know we've had reception all the way from algeria to washington dc and uh i never expected it but the biggest that really gets to me is my hometown to see all you people come out here just as their absences brought their communities together today's homecomings brought residents together in one place like the milwaukee suburb of oakwood where marine sergeant kevin hermanning who

wrote the milwaukee brewers while he was in captivity met the brewers in person got a baseball cap even a seasons pass in some towns today more people that lived there showed up to greet the returning hostages the population of tiny olefin pennsylvania doubled today more than 8 thousand people lined the sidewalks to welcome michael matrinco home with so long for this we pray every day for him to come back home this is the biggest occasion that we've ever had as the car carrying the trinco near the center of town people poured into the street joyously blocking the parade a glimpse through a window was not enough for them they wanted to talk to him and touch him matrinko who spent nine months in solitary confinement couldn't stay in the car he walked through the crowd shaking hands he said he was overwhelmed by the reception then matrinko walked up the stairs of the catholic church where friends and relatives had prayed often for his release today there were prayers of thanksgiving denise baker nbc news oliphant pennsylvania story was no different in big cities detroit welcomed home joseph subic of the embassy's defense staff right now i like to go back and just meet my family and get back to home again thank you michigan for most of the hostages the families in waiting have become entire town the 5 000 residents of rensselaer

01:20:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs&t=4800s)

the 5 000 residents of rensselaer indiana were waiting for frederick kupke to come home church bell signaled his arrival and grade school students welcomed the 31 year old communications worker singing the national anthem said he was surprised at the welcome i didn't expect all this it's really something you're a great person welcome back dude thank you cupcake was going to his parents farm in nearby francisville to rest roger o'neill nbc news san diego belonged to richard moorfield and his wife dorothea today a huge crowd was waiting at the airport thousands more lined the route from there to the city's downtown moorfield's wife had been one of the most vocal of the hostage as the mayor of relatives diego gave the key to his hometown to the second ranking diplomat held hostage bruce langen a ranking diplomat among the hostages the one who spoke for them all yesterday at the white house went home today went home by way of the schools he sent his children to in suburban washington people from up and down the street came early to share in the homecoming and brought food because that's what friends do here when things are very bad or very good at a neighbor's house when things were very bad here more than a year ago penny langan went out and tied a yellow ribbon to this enormous oak tree there have been millions of ribbons since then but that first one was still there this morning when bruce langan came home delaney nbc news bethesda maryland

01:22:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs&t=4920s)

delaney nbc news bethesda maryland one of the more dramatic events in the recent history of the presidency was the carter administration's down to the wire effort to get the hostages out before mr carter left office the white house allowed pool television cameras to record some of those final hours the carter people then reviewed the tapes and released them with some deletions we thought you'd be interested in seeing how it looked and judy woodruff has prepared this summary right on man that's great that's great 6 30 in the morning inauguration day now the value that okay so the bank of england has certified the depository the president had been up all night his last in the white house personally overseeing the final financial details that would lead to the release of the hostages mr carter told press secretary jody powell to brief reporters keep it really simple the money is in the bank our action is complete uh iran's being notified through algeria that the money's there that's all you need to tell them the president optimistically prepared to make a statement on television but when former secretary of state vance dropped by the president revealed he was still uncertain i just hope continues to go well still no word from the bank of england but mr carter congratulated warren christopher in algiers you've done a great job man we'll see you when i get over him but there were anxious moments ahead which hold up why the hell the first lady joined the weight in the oval office in a discussion of the president's plans to greet the hostages in west germany she said he should make the trip without her i would feel very guilty seeing them and their own wives having to stay here the bank of england finally notified iran the money was in place at 8.05 now

01:24:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs&t=5042s)

iran the money was in place at 8.05 now the wait was foreword the planes had left tehran both planes at the end of the runway the first place take off him tim won't be upset at 8 30 mr carter phoned president-elect reagan and still sounded optimistic that the hostages would be free before noon the time of the inauguration so we will let you know when to take off but it's this close jody powell said later the president and his aide didn't think the iranians were delaying deliberately having dealt with those people over over 14 months they don't seem to be able to do anything with any uh any degree of of of planning you know my thoughts were that the bus didn't show up or it went to the wrong airport or somebody forgot to put the ramp out so you could get on the airplane or they couldn't get through the comenia because it was asleep but time ran out word that the hostages were in the air would not come until more than two hours later to a new president judy woodruff nbc news the white house and that's our report for this evening i'm john chancellor good night for nbc news [Music] today was new york city's turn the city gave a ticker tape and confetti welcome to 22 of the returned hostages one of them said he was flabbergasted by the enthusiasm of the welcome another called the crowd the most exuberant and friendly he'd ever seen bob jameson tells us what it was like it was in the tradition of new york welcomes for returning heroes from charles lindbergh to world's champion yankees the 22 former hostages and their families riding in 19 limousines

01:26:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31FuOzN4BCs&t=5161s)

families riding in 19 limousines followed a line of march from the southern tip of manhattan island to city hall a half mile away yet the parade took almost two hours police commissioner robert mcguire estimated the crowd at two million people others thought the crowd was only half that ranking it somewhere in the middle of previous new york celebrations but whatever the size the newly freed americans such as stephen lauterbach worked the crowd like experience public figures hometown boy barry rosen catherine cove mayor edward koch had been urged by the secretary of state labor leaders and the new york times not to hold this parade all argued it was time to give the freed hostages privacy but koch called today's celebration an extraordinary near religious experience he presided over a city hall ceremony in which the returned hostages were given keys to the city and a civic award morehead kennedy another new yorker said he had returned to a country more patriotic and unified than the one he had left to the extent that we the ex-hostages had anything to do with this change of feeling to that extent we are profoundly grateful and it made everything we went through worthwhile new york was able to give a real ticker tape parade just like those of the past only with outside help the financial community replaced tickers with computers long ago but new yorkers today through ticker tape imported from connecticut bob jamison nbc news new york

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